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traux," so that "nous devons abandonner les anciennes associations internationales, et en créer de nouvelles entre alliés avec le concours éventuel des neutres."

Whence this painful contrast? We should rather have expected the opposite, even without indulging illusions with regard to the progress of mankind during a hundred years. For there seems to be more room for generosity when the war's misery is past than when it is still raging; more too towards a defeated enemy than towards one who is still to be feared.

Summing up what precedes we ask you earnestly and urgently: Recover your former selves. Recover the high scientific point of view which, on his deathbed, made Ampère say to a fellow worker: "il ne doit être question entre nous que de ce qui est éternel!" Once more: we understand how your attention of late has been monopolized by what is temporal and transitory. But now, you more than all the others, are called upon to find again the way to what is eternal. You possess the inclination for objective thought, the wide range of vision, the discretion, the habit of self-criticism. Of you we had expected the first step for the restoration of lacerated Europe. We call on you for co-operation in order to prevent science from becoming divided, for the first time and for an indefinite period, into hostile political camps.

#### THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

WE learn from *The British Medical Journal* that the headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies, which was formed in Paris, on May 5, 1919, are at 9, Cour de St. Pierre, Geneva, and the work of organization is proceeding as rapidly as possible. The founder members of the League were the American, British, French, Italian and Japanese national Red Cross societies. The following national societies have since become members, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, Greece, Holland, India, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Rumania, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Venezuela.

The third number of the *Bulletin* of the League gives a list of the officers and heads of departments who have already been appointed and have taken up their duties at headquarters. The director-general is Lieutenant-

General Sir David Henderson; the secretary-general is Professor William E. Rappard; the treasurer-general is M. André Pallain; the general medical director is Colonel Richard P. Strong, with Dr. Leonard Findley as director of the department of child welfare; the counsellor in international public health is Professor Rocco Santoliquido. In the departments of public health and hygiene bureaus will be organized to deal with the subjects of child welfare, tuberculosis, malaria, preventive medicine, venereal diseases and nursing.

An Inter-Allied Medical Commission was recently sent by the League at the request of the Polish government to investigate the pandemic of typhus fever in Poland. One of the gravest consequences of the devastation of Poland during the war has been the great decline in the sanitary condition of the Polish population, with a concurrent rise in the general mortality. The Inter-Allied Commission will report on the sanitary conditions in Poland, and will make recommendations as to the advisability of establishing sanitary cordons to suppress the spread of typhus into adjacent territories. When the commission has issued its report the League will be in a position to devise relief and preventive measures in the countries concerned, to propose to the Red Cross societies interested in the work an active sanitary campaign, and to urge the necessary measures that should be undertaken by the governments themselves. It is believed that the Polish pandemic of typhus originated in Russia and Ukraina.

The reports of the various sections of the medical conference held at Cannes in April last have now been published. They are printed in English, French, Italian and Spanish, and may be had on application to the Department of Information and Publication of the League.

#### THE TARIFF ON SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS

THE *Journal* of the Washington Academy of Sciences states that the finance committee of the Senate, which has had before it the bill for a tariff on scientific supplies (H. R. 7785), decided on October 3 to postpone all

revenue and tariff matters until after the treaty of peace had been acted upon.

During the hearings on the bill the Tariff Commission prepared a report entitled *Information concerning scientific instruments*, which has been recently published. The report brings together a large number of opinions and arguments concerning the tariff on scientific supplies, received from various sections of the Bureau of Standards, from manufacturers and instruments of all kinds and from universities and organizations.

Two distinct questions are involved: (1) Should Congress repeal the privilege, now granted to institutions of learning, of importing supplies free of duty? (2) Should the present rates be increased and imported articles now on the free list be taxed?

The opinions quoted are not analyzed in the report, but the following brief outline will indicate that those interested are still far from being in agreement. (Definite recommendations only are counted.)

1. Of eleven university professors quoted, one favors and ten oppose repeal of the duty-free clause. Of twelve opinions from the Bureau of Standards, five favor and seven oppose repeal. Of seven manufacturers quoted on this subject six favor and one opposes repeal. The Council of the American Chemical Society is quoted in favor of repeal of the duty-free clause, "for a reasonable period of years, at least."

2. Opinions on the subject of the imposition and increase of tariff rates on scientific supplies are quoted as follows: Ten manufacturers, all in favor of higher tariff; eleven sections of the Bureau of Standards, seven in favor and four against. The commission believes that "the extremely diverse nature of the products falling under such a general designation as 'scientific instruments' renders general statements concerning the entire group of little value for the purpose of deciding on any rates of duty related to the competitive conditions which affect individual instruments."

The report also discusses in a general way the status of the domestic industry, imports and exports, tariff history, competitive conditions and war developments.

#### THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

THERE was formally opened at the New York Botanical Garden on November 8 a new Central Display Greenhouse, the gift of Daniel and Murray Guggenheimer, erected at a cost of \$100,000. The gift includes, besides the main house, an adjoining orchid house. The main building is approximately 140 feet long, forty-five feet wide and thirty-five feet high. Among its new features is the glass, which is frosted, thus doing away with the use of screens, previously considered necessary in glasshouses, although more or less of a disfigurement, as they become quickly defaced. The new building has an open concrete floored center, where lectures are to be given.

The central display house will contain plants from South Africa, the southern part of Japan, from South America and from some of the southern states in this country. A special exhibition of plants and flowers was shown. The Horticultural Society of New York held a large flower show in the new greenhouse which is now open to the public. It is on the eastern end of the grounds, near the Allerton Avenue subway station, and will aid in distributing the crowds visiting the gardens, the other group of greenhouses being at the western end of the grounds.

W. Gilman Thompson, president of the board of directors of the garden, opened the exercises and told of the educational work of the garden, a part of which will now be done in the new building. The gift of the greenhouse, he said, with the exception of one by Mrs. Russell Sage, was the largest ever made to the garden. Dr. N. L. Britton, director of the Botanical Garden, and Dr. D. T. MacDougal, director of botanical research, Carnegie Institution of Washington, formerly assistant director made addresses.

#### GIFT TO THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that Mr. John D. Rockefeller has added \$10,000,000 to his previous endowment of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. This gift, the largest made by Mr. Rockefeller at one time to the institution, is to meet rapidly growing needs in its many lines of research and in